

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

PRIORITY

18 1800Z SEP 61

FM COMSIXTHFLT

TO CINCUSNAVEUR

INFO CNO / USCINCEUR / CINCLANTFLT / CINCPACFLT / COMFIRSTFLT /
COMSECONDFLT / COMSEVENTHFLT / CTF 60 / CTF 61 / CTF 62 /
CTG 60.2 / USDOCOSTRIKFORSOUTH / CTF 63 / CTF 69 / CTG 60.5

WEEKLY SUMMARY 12 - 18 SEP

1. WHAT A WEEK! FOLLOWING PRELIMINARY ALERTS ON MONDAY THE NATO EXERCISE CHECKMATE I BEGAN WITH A REINFORCED ALERT AT 120001Z. FOR THE NEXT THREE DAYS THE SIXTH FLEET STRIKING FORCE, BUILT AROUND THE INDEPENDENCE AND INTREPID, CONTINUED SCHEDULED AND CALLED STRIKES WHICH WERE PERIODICALLY OPPOSED BY RANDOM INTERCEPTS FROM THE ITALIAN AIR FORCE. AGGRESSOR AIR STRIKES AGAINST THE FORCE CAME FROM CONFIRMED PLANES BASED IN SICILY EARLY IN THE EXERCISE AND FROM OUR OWN RETURNING STRIKES UNTIL TERMINATION. IN THIS PHASE OF THE OPERATIONS WE USED CROSS-TELLING WITH THE ITALIAN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM. THE FORCE WAS ALSO OPPOSED BY FIVE U. S. AND ITALIAN SUBMARINES, INCLUDING THE NUCLEAR SHARK, ALL OPERATING UNDER THE EXERCISE OP CONTROL OF A BRITISHER, CINCPACFLT. TO MAKE THE EXERCISE MORE REALISTIC HEAVY LOSSES OF STRIKE AIRCRAFT WERE IMPOSED UPON OUR FORCES. CHECKMATE I ENDED THE EVENING OF THE 14TH. 17 239 AIRCRAFT FLEW 1481 ACCIDENT FREE HOURS IN THIS PHASE OF THE EXERCISE. ON THE 15TH, INDEPENDENCE LAUNCHED AGGRESSOR SORTIES AGAINST THE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE (TF 240) ENROUTE TO THE OBJECTIVE AREA AND ALSO PROVIDED CAP FOR THEIR DEFENSE. CHECKMATE II BEGAN ON THE 16TH WITH PRACTICE MINE FIELDS HAVING ALREADY BEEN LAID IN THE SEA AREA OFF THE LANDING BEACHES. HAVING SURVIVED THE ATOMIC EXCHANGE OF CHECKMATE I THE STRIKING FORCE RENDERED BOTH ATOMIC AND CONVENTIONAL AIR SUPPORT TO NATO LANDING FORCES. IN CHECKMATE II, PROVIDED PRE-ASSAULT STRIKES AND CAP DURING THE AMPHIBIOUS LANDINGS. DURING THIS PHASE ONE UNIT OF THE STRIKING FORCE OPERATED IN THE IONIAN AND ONE IN THE AEGEAN. THE SAME FIVE SUBS OPPOSED THE UNIT IN THE IONIAN AND TWO TURKISH SUBS OPPOSED THE UNIT IN THE AEGEAN. ONE TURKISH AND ONE U.S. MINE DIVISION WERE USED TO SWEEP THE MINES PRIOR TO THE AMPHIBIOUS LANDING. COMMANDER SIXTH FLEET WENT ASHORE TO OBSERVE THE LANDING OF U.S. MARINES FOLLOWED BY THE LANDING OF BOTH TURKS AND GREEKS WHO WERE UNDER THE COMMAND OF A GREEK COLONEL. SIXTH FLEET AIR SUPPORT OF THESE LANDINGS WAS AUGMENTED BY SORTIES FROM BOTH THE TURKISH AND GREEK TACTICAL AIR FORCES. ADDITIONALLY OFFENSIVE AND DEFENSIVE AIR SORTIES WERE FLOWN BY THE FIFTH AND SIXTH TACTICAL AIR FORCES OPERATING FROM THEIR BASES IN ITALY, GREECE AND TURKEY. AS THE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE LANDED IN TURKISH THRACE ON THE SHORES OF SAROS BAY AND PENETRATED INLAND THE TURKISH SECOND ARMY CORPS MOVED NORTHWEST TO LINK UP WITH THEM. THE COMBINED U.S.M.C., GREEK AND TURKISH LANDING FORCES PROCEEDED TO CUT OFF AND DESTROY ENEMY FORCES IN THE AMPHIBIOUS OBJECTIVE AREA. AT THE SAME TIME 2,000 U.S. ARMY PARATROOPS FLOWN OVER FROM THE U.S. WERE AIR DROPPED AND JOINED IN THE OPERATIONS OF THE TURKISH SECOND CORPS.

CONFIDENTIAL

18 1800Z SEPT

PAGE 2 OF 3

UPON LINK-UP OF TURKISH SECOND CORPS AND THE LANDING FORCES ON 18SEP THE AMPHIBIOUS OPERATION TERMINATED AND THE U.S. MARINES WERE REEMBARKED. AMONG THE MOST NOTABLE FEATURES OF THE CHECKMATE EXERCISE WAS THE SMOOTH COORDINATION OF ELEMENTS FROM THE DIFFERENT ALLIED COUNTRIES AND THE WILLING ACCEPTANCE OF COMMAND CONTROL BY OFFICERS OF THESE DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES.

2. THE DDR E A GREENE REPORTED RFS ON THE 14TH AND DEPARTED MALTA AFTER REPAIRS TO NO 2 MAIN ENGINE BEARINGS WERE COMPLETED. GREENE'S CASUALTY PREVENTED HER PARTICIPATION IN CHECKMATE I. NO OTHER SIGNIFICANT DD CASUALTIES WERE ENCOUNTERED DURING CHECKMATE, HOWEVER BOTH CVA'S SUFFERED CATAPULT CASUALTIES DURING CHECKMATE II. INDEPENDENCE NUMBER TWO CAT HAS A FAULTY EXHAUST VALVE PRODUCING LOW END SPEEDS AND REQUIRES PARTS WHICH ARE BEING DELIVERED FROM CONUS. ON HER NUMBER 4 CAT A PISTON GUIDE PART FAILED. A REPLACEMENT PART IS ON BOARD. ETR ON 21 SEPTEMBER. INTREPID NUMBER ONE CAT HAS HAD REPEATED DIFFICULTY WITH WATER BRAKE HOSE FAILURE WHICH THE SHIP'S FORCE MANAGED TO KEEP WORKING UNTIL THE 15TH. A REPLACEMENT HOSE IS ENROUTE FROM CONUS, MEANWHILE INTREPID IS MEETING COMMITMENTS WITH ONLY ONE CAT.

3. DURING A REFUELING APPROACH ON THE NIGHT OF THE 12TH DEWEY (DLG14) COLLIDED WITH NANTALA (AO 60). BOTH SHIPS SUSTAINED MINOR DAMAGE IN THE SIDESWIPE ACCIDENT, BUT THERE WERE NO PERSONNEL INJURIES AND OPERATIONAL READINESS WAS UNIMPAIRED. COMDESRON 4 HAS BEEN ORDERED TO CONDUCT AN INFORMAL INVESTIGATION OF THE COLLISION.

4. EARLY ON THE 13TH SEA LEOPARD OPERATING IN HER ASSIGNED CHECKMATE AREA MADE CONTACT WITH AN UNIDENTIFIED SUBMARINE WITH VISUAL SIGHTING OF A PERISCOPE AND BY SONAR. SONAR CONTACT WITH THE TARGET WAS MAINTAINED INTERMITTENTLY FOR OVER FOUR HOURS AND THE PERISCOPE WAS SIGHTED A SECOND TIME AFTER SEA LEOPARD SURFACED TO AVOID A POSSIBLE COLLISION. AS SURFACE AND AIR ASW FORCES PROCEEDED TO THE SCENE, CONTACT WAS LOST AND WAS NOT REGAINED. ANALYSIS SHOWS THIS CONTACT WAS NOT AN EXERCISE SUBMARINE AND REMAINS UNIDENTIFIED.

5. A GREEK PEDESTRIAN WAS FATALLY INJURED ON THE NIGHT OF THE 11TH WHEN STRUCK BY A SHORE PATROL VEHICLE IN ATHENS. THE DRIVER HAS BEEN RELEASED BY THE GREEKS TO U.S. MILITARY AUTHORITIES AND AN INFORMAL WAIVER OF JURISDICTION HAS BEEN REQUESTED. THE FOREIGN CLAIMS ASPECT OF THIS INCIDENT IS PRESENTLY BEING PROCESSED.

6. RADM STROOP, CHIEF BUWEP, IS VISITING THE SIXTH FLEET. HE ARRIVED ABOARD INDEPENDENCE BY COD ON THE 17TH AND AFTER VISITING ON BOARD WITH COMCARDIV 2, RADM ELLIS, TRANSFERRED TO SPRINGFIELD ON THE 18TH TO VISIT COMSIXTHFLT. RADM STROOP WILL LEAVE THE FLEET UPON SPRINGFIELD'S ARRIVAL AT ATHENS ON THE 19TH.

7. AFTER THE STRENUOUS NATO EXERCISE PERIOD ENDS MOST SIXTH FLEET UNITS WILL BEGIN EASTERN MED PORT VISITS. THE FLAGSHIP AND THE BLUE GROUP WILL VISIT ATHENS AND THE GOLD GROUP WILL BE DIVIDED WITH INTREPID AND DD'S VISITING CORFU WHILE NEWPORT NEWS AND ONE DD VISIT IZMIR.

DECLASSIFIED

18 1800Z SEP 61

PAGE 3 OF 3

CERTIFIED TO BE A TRUE COPY

J. Crawford LTJG USNR

DRAFT: 35 REL: 00

NR: 223/18

CGWC: CRAWFORD/JR

SI: _____

TOD: 2253Z/18

SWO: _____

CLO: _____

SYS: NAVOP NET

DTG: 18 1800Z SEP 61

PAGE 3 OF 3

MAIL: 06202/19

CONFIDENTIAL